

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets replace the original sheets including those same Figures.

Figs. 1 and 2 have been labeled "Conventional Art" as described in the specification.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Claims 1-14 are now present in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. By this amendment, changes have been made to Fig. 1 and 2, claims 15 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1-6 have been amended.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Citation

Each of the four Information Disclosure Statements filed by Applicant to date ~~have has~~ been considered by the Examiner, and initialed PTO-SB08 forms have been provided by the Examiner. Therefore, no outstanding issues remain with respect to the consideration of Information Disclosure Statements.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because not all features of the invention specified in the drawings have been shown. In order to overcome this objection, Applicant has amended claim 9 to address this objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant has included replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 2 to add the label "Conventional Art." This label is clearly supported by the specification.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph as being indefinite for reciting the phrase "or the like."

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicant has amended claims 2 and 4 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by WO 02/079649 to Song (“Song ‘649”), and claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0043870 to Song (“Song ‘870”).¹ These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner’s rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a reciprocating compressor including “a resonant spring unit positioned between a rear portion of the driving unit and a rear frame of the support unit.” The resonant spring unit includes “a spring support member fixedly connected with the piston,” “first and second resonant springs abutting at corresponding first and second support portions of the spring support member, the first and second resonant springs transferring an elastic force to the piston,” and “a plurality of spring sheet members are provided, each of the spring sheet members is mounted to one of the support portions by inserting a fixing portion of the spring sheet members into a through hole of the support portion, wherein a sheet portion is protruded from the fixing portion in the direction of a central axis of the resonant springs and holds the resonant springs.” Support for this claim amendment can be found, for example, at page 12, lines 16-22, and Fig. 9. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Song ‘649 and Song ‘870.

Applicant respectfully submits that an object of the present invention is to provide a reciprocating compressor with an improved transfer of the elastic force to the piston. To achieve the above object according to the present invention, and as set forth in amended claim 1, a plurality of

¹ Applicant notes that the Office Action first lists the rejections of claims 1-16 as being anticipated by Song ‘649 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) but later correctly describes that the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

spring sheet members are provided which are mounted to each of the support portions by inserting a fixing portion of the spring sheet members into a corresponding through hole of the support portions. A sheet portion is protruded from the fixing portion in the direction of the central axis of the resonant springs and holds the resonant springs.(see, 16-22 lines 12 page, fig. 9)

By providing the spring support members as described, and claimed, it is possible to exchange the spring sheet members when different resonant springs are to be used such that the outer diameter of the spring sheet member always corresponds to the inner diameter of the resonant springs used. Thereby the spring sheet members always fit into the resonant springs, which lead to an optimal fixation in radial direction of the resonant springs relative to the spring support member.

In contrast, both Song '649 and Song '870 disclose spring sheet portions formed integrally with the respective spring support member. There is no suggestion to provide separate spring sheet members that may be fixed and removed to the spring support member thereby providing a possibility for exchanging the cylindrical spring sheet portions.

For at least this reason, Applicant submits that both Song '649 and Song '870 fail to anticipate independent claim 1. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to derive a solution according to the present invention, but would rather exchange the whole spring support member when there is a need for using different resonant springs. In other words, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide exchangeable spring sheet members that may be chosen exactly in accordance with the inner diameter of the used resonant springs.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Song '649 and Song '870, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-14, Applicant submits that claims 2-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-14 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875 at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

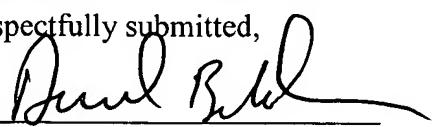
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Sheets